

Adam Hobkirk and Jane or Jeany Scott

Adam may have been born 14 January 1750 at Cavers near Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland. His father - John Hobkirk.

Adam is said to have worked on various estates, including Abbotrule and Grange, so it seems that when his children were christened at **Southdean church**, he was a farm worker or farmer at nearby **Abbotrule**, a very pretty area with undulating land and mixed farming. (I can't find Grange)



Scenery at Abbotrule, probably not changed since 1750

Southdean is “a parish in Roxburghshire, about 12 miles long, and 7 broad, lying on the banks of the Jed, and comprehending a part of the old parish of Abbotrule...Population in 1801, 697.” - from 1806 Gazetteer.

Southdean church is just off the A6088 at Chesters, and quite close to the village of Hobkirk from which one assumes the name came. Hobkirk is a rare Scottish name.

Adam and Jane had four children that I know of:

John Hobkirk chr. 23 November 1788 at Hawick.

He married Christian Riddell 1 November 1829 (age 41) and they had three children then emigrated to the USA in 1835 on the Ajax from Ireland. Another daughter was born in New York in 1837.

Next came **Archibald** who is an Irving ancestor, see below.

Then Mary, christened 20 December 1792. She married Thomas Scott on 27 March 1812 at Southdean. They had 4 children all christened at Southdean – Adam 1812, Thomas 1814, Jane 1816, John 1823. In 1828 she signed her name as Mary Hobkirk on her father's will. This might have been normal Scottish practice as maiden names were also used on tombstones.

Then Adam, christened 14 November 1795 at Southdean or Wilton. He married Elizabeth

Ferguson on 27 June 1823 at Southdean. They had 2 children born in Scotland, then they emigrated to America and had three more children.



Hobkirk village church, near Southdean.

Adam Hobkirk senior died 25 February 1829 at Todlaw farm. He was about 79. His wife must have pre-deceased him as she is not mentioned in his will.

Adam made a will on 3 May 1828 which was signed by himself and his four children, who gave their consent to the will, in Jedburgh. He left his children equal shares in his estate. The inventory of his personal estate came to:

Cash	£121.08. 10	(interest due on a £500 bond)
Household effects	9. 8.	(worth £637 in 2006)

Value of the estate £130. 16. 10 (worth £8,872 in 2006)

There are no farming items mentioned, so one presumes the farm was being run by one of his sons, and Adam just lived there.

"I Adam Hobkirk of Todlaw in the parish of Jedburgh and County of Roxburgh in Scotland, make this my last will and testament. I resign my soul to the creator and all humble hopes of it's future Happiness, as in the disposal of a Being infinitely good. As to my Body my will is that it be buried in Cavers Church yard beside my parents."

The original Caver Church is in the grounds of Cavers House, above the new church. Cavers Old Churchyard is now overgrown, dilapidated and inaccessible. In 2004 it was cleared so that the inscriptions could be noted for a book. Adam is not in the list of 3 Hobkirks, but many tombstones have disintegrated.

Archibald Hobkirk and Elizabeth Millar

Archibald Hobkirk was christened on 24 January **1790** at **Southdean**.

On 26 January **1823 Archibald Hobkirk married Elizabeth Millar** in **Jedburgh**.

She was born about 1794-7 in Roxburghshire, place uncertain. It says Southdean on one census and Roxburgh in another.

Archibald and Elizabeth ("Betty" or "Eliza") had six children that I know of.

Adam born circa 1825 in Jedburgh

Christian – sometimes called Catherine in the census transcripts, born Jedburgh c. 1826.

Jean or Jane born c. 1827.

Mary born c. 1831 Jedburgh.

Eliza born 1832/3 Jedburgh

Martha born 1834 Jedburgh.

In **February 1829 Adam died**; one assumes one of his three sons had been helping him run the farm. It's possible that, after Adam's death, two brothers had run the farm together; but 68 acres is not enough to provide a good income for two families. There probably were not enough farms to acquire for one's sons, hence the mass emigration that occurred..

In **1830** Archibald's younger brother Adam Hobkirk age 35 emigrated to the USA with his wife and two children. His prospects must have been poor for him to take this big step.

In **1835** John Hobkirk, his older brother (47), emigrated to the USA from Ireland on the Ajax with his wife and one child.

Archibald was the only son of Adam left in Scotland, and he ran Todlaw Farm.

In the census of **1841 Archibald Hobkirk** was a farmer at **Todlaw farm** a mile south of Jedburgh. **Archibald was 51** and with his wife **Betty 45**, Adam 16, **Christian 15**, Jean 14, Mary 11, Eliza 9, Martha 7.

The stone farmhouse at Todlaw is on high ground looking down on fabulous scenery through 180 degrees, and close to the west bank of Jed Water. Todlaw is well known to the people of Jedburgh and is on the route of a walk from the Abbey.

"The greater part of the Parish of Jedburgh is hilly, and laid out in sheep farms, which are dry and covered with luxuriant pasture"

"The neighbourhood of the town is noted for it's orchards, the annual average value of the pears alone being estimated at about 300L." 1806 Gazetteer.

(In 2007 Todlaw farm was growing crops.)

In **1841 Robert Miller 50** was a **grocer in Castle Street, Jedburgh**.

I think he was Elizabeth's brother. He was a widower with five children aged 15, 14, 12, 5, 2, and they had a live-in servant.



Todlaw Farm near Jedburgh



Part of the wide view from the farmhouse

In the census of **1851** “**Harchbald Hopkirk**” age 60 and born at Southdean was a **grocer at 42 Castle Street, Jedburgh.**

He was with **Elizabeth 55** born Southdean, and his daughter **Mary, 18** and unmarried, a “home servant” born Jedburgh.

In 1851 Todlaw Farm was in the hands of Robert Millar 60, **farmer of 68 acres.**

So it seems that Archibald and Robert, brothers in law, did a swap. Archibald gave the farm to Robert, and Robert gave his grocers shop to Archibald. Why? Well Archibald only had one son Adam, and he was not around, so he had no help with heavy work. But Robert had two sons age 15 and 14, and maybe he saw a future for them in farming. (But in 1861 the sons had left and his son-in-law was helping him!)

By **1854** Archibald had moved to **23 Castlegate** which might have been a pub only at that time. (Castlegate is a steep street from the market place up to the castle. 23 is a few doors up from the central market place.)

In the census of **1861 Archibald Hobkirk** 71 was a **grocer at 23 Castlegate.** He was with **Eliza 64** and daughter **Mary 29, a dressmaker,** and they had one boarder whose job was “letter carrier”.

The Jedburgh population in 1861 was 5,263. Jedburgh was on the route from Edinburgh to Newcastle or London and was one of the chief towns of the border, so no doubt a grocery shop near the centre would have been very busy. Archibald had contacts in the farming world and so he probably sold cheeses, hams, bacon, porridge oats, flour, milk, butter and eggs from local farms, including his brother-in-laws Todlaw Farm.



Old sandstone building on Castlegate, looking out from no. 23.

23 Castlegate is now the **Foresters Arms**, a pub with a restaurant upstairs. Locals call it “Belters Bar”. A pub guide describes it - “A quaint, compact little pub set on the ancient Castlegate stretch. Belters Bar quickly attains a convivial atmosphere, and is the perfect place to get a feel of the Jedburgh of old.” But it was not always a public house.



On the left, Belters Bar and Foresters Arms. The cross roads is the centre of Jedburgh.

From a book about the Inn and Pubs of Jedburgh by Garrett O'Brien called “Refreshing the Spirit”:

Foresters Arms. This, despite being a very old building is relatively new as a pub. **Archibald Hobkirk had his license renewed in 1854, but this was removed in the following year and changed to a license for a Grocers shop.** This was transferred to James Blackie in 1868 and in 1871 Robert Peacock, from over the way, took over the business. This was changed to a Public House License in 1876, which was probably when the name was given of the “Foresters Arms”.

Apparently there was a lot of drunkenness in Jedburgh in the 17th century. In 1693 the magistrates met to discuss the matter of profanity and over-drinking in the town on week days as well as the Sabbath. They agreed to take strong measures against anyone transgressing in this way. Fines would be imposed and the names of wrongdoers would be published at the Cross on the Tuesday next, and the Town Drummer would “tuck of drum” throughout the town.

In 1834 there were 16 Inns and 47 Alehouses in the burgh – compare that with 5 pubs and 2 inns today. Anyone could obtain a license and open a room in their own house for the purpose of selling beers and spirits, and some people home- brewed ale. As Archibald had already had a grocers shop up the hill, it seems likely that 23 Castlegate was **a grocers shop with a license**, or a sort of farmers market for his farming friends, and the upstairs room served drinks. Maybe the authorities decided that this was not a good idea, shoppers being enticed to have a drink, so they withdrew his license. Alternatively, as there was a pub over the road, they decided to remove his

license so he was forced to find an alternative purpose for the building.

23 May 1867 Archibald Hobkirk died.

He was 77 and still a grocer on Castlegate. His wife Elizabeth Miller/Hobkirk was his executrix. His estate was valued at:

Cash and interest	£6.1.0	(£362 in 2006)
Household furniture	£9.11.10	(£574)
Stock in trade	£27.17.8	(£1,669)

Value of estate £43.10.6 (£2,605)

The inventory of the estate was presented by a solicitor to the authorities on 11 Jan. 1870. and marked " No stamp duty".

Archibald's father Adam had left £130.16.10 (£8,872.81) 38 years before. Was Archibald a less successful farmer at Todlaw? Or had it become harder to make a living from farming? (Adam did have three sons to help him whereas Archibald had one son who is not around.) Or was it harder to make a living selling groceries? Alternatively, as happens today, Archibald's family may not have declared all his assets in order to avoid paying stamp duty.

In **1868** the grocers shop was transferred to James Blackie. How did the widow Elizabeth earn her living thereafter? I can't find her in the 1871 census. In 1881 she lived with her daughter Christian in Cumberland, aged about 86.

Archibald's children

9 September 1850 Archibald's daughter **Jean/Jane Hobkirk** married **George Miller** in Hawick. He might have been a relative of her mother Betty Millar.

1851 census George Miller was a **flour miller** age 21 living at Cross Wynd, Hawick.

Jane Miller (Hobkirk) 22 born Jedburgh.

Robert Miller 5 months.

Martha Hopkirk 16 sister-in-law. **Dressmaker.**

Walson Miller 19 brother. **Woollen Framework Knitter.** (You did this at home)

****1851 Census Christian Hobkirk** 27 (born 1824 at Jedburgh) was a **house servant** in a 79 year old farmers house, Weirgate House, St. Boswell, with a 17 year old male servant.

An **Adam Hobkirk** married Margaret Dalglish in Peebles in 1851. It's the only possible marriage I can find for Adam, Archibald's only son. He is not in the 1851 census so maybe he died or emigrated.

**** 14 September 1854 Christian Hobkirk** married **John Hammond** a **gardener** at Edgbaston, Warwickshire. He claimed to have been born in Scotland, but I can't trace him there. John Hammond became a Head Gardener, and then ran a Nursery and Floristry in Cumberland.

See the Hammond profile for more on John Hammond, our Irving ancestor.



The Parish church Edgbaston 1930 – John and Christian married there.

12 January 1855 Eliza married Alexander Ross in Jedburgh. He was a **gardener** and possibly a friend of the above John Hammond. There were few big gardens in the area, and by 1861 they had moved south.

1861 census. Christian (Catherine) and Eliza are in the same house 41 Prince Edwin Lane, **Everton, Lancashire.**

Alexander Ross 30 **Gardener**

Eliza Ross (Hobkirk) 28 born Jedburgh

William Ross 6 scholar “ “

Eliza Ross 4 “ “

Catherine Hammond (i.e. Christian Hobkirk) 35 Boarder. Born Jedburgh/

Eliza Hammond 8

Mary Hammond 4

Martha Hammond 2

It says they were all except Alexander born in Jedburgh, but later censuses say the young Hammonds were born in Sefton.

John Hammond is not listed and I can't find him elsewhere.

1861 census their sister Martha was a **milliner.**

20 October 1865 Martha Hobkirk married James Blackie in Jedburgh. 1871 census?

1871 census Eliza was still in Lancashire with her husband Alexander Ross and William 16, Archibald 9, Isabela 6, John 3. Eliza who should be listed age 14 is missing.

1881 Census.

Elizbabh. Habkirk 87 was in Brayton, Aspatria, Cumberland with her daughter Christiana Hammond. Described as “formerly farm wife born in Scotland”. I wonder why she put that and not “grocer's wife”? I suppose having a farm is more prestigious than running a shop.

I can't find Elizabeth Hobkirk's death in England.